

ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences was held Wednesday evening, February 19, 1947, in North American Hall. At this meeting the annual reports of the president, the director, and the curators were presented, and the result of the annual election of officers and trustees was announced. The following persons were elected to the positions designated: President, Mr. Maurice E. Lombardi; First Vice-President, Professor E. B. Babcock; Second Vice-President, Dr. George S. Myers; Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Charles L. Camp; Recording Secretary, Mr. W. I. Follett; Treasurer, Mr. Francis P. Farquhar; Trustees (to serve five years), Mr. Charles Page and Mr. Daniel E. Koshland.



HONORARY MEMBERS ELECTED

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of February 19, four persons were elected Honorary Members of the California Academy of Sciences. The scientists so honored were:

Dr. Björn Helland-Hansen, Director of the Geophysical Institute, Bergen, Norway

Dr. Albert W. Herre, Curator of the Museum of Zoölogy, Stanford University
Dr. C. A. Kofoed, Emeritus Professor of Zoölogy, University of California, Berkeley

Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy, Chairman of the Department of Birds, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Election to Honorary Membership is the highest recognition which the Academy awards.



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting on March 11 approved the applications of Mr. John Q. Burch, Mr. Manuel Marquis, Mr. Earl Nobel, Miss Esther Rhine, Mr. Waldemar Wiederhoeft, and Mr. Harry R. Zordrager for MEMBERSHIP, and of Ronald Angelbaur, Ruggiero Pelosi, Jan Tarski, and Lanny Thurston for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after March 21, they will be considered elected.

SECTION 562 P.L. & R.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 87

March, 1947

March Announcement

THE REGULAR MARCH MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in North American Hall, West Wing of the Academy Buildings in Golden Gate Park, Tuesday evening, March 25, 1947, at eight o'clock. The lecture of the evening, another in the Academy's series on the Dr. Walter B. Scaife Foundation, will be given by Mr. Allan D. Cruickshank through arrangement with the National Audubon Society. Mr. Cruickshank's subject will be

SOUTH ALONG THE SUWANNEE

It is said that when Stephen Foster wrote *Suwannee River* he sat down in his armchair to search the map for a river in the South with a right-sounding name and when he had found the Suwannee he visited it in his imagination. But Allan Cruickshank's visits have been very real and thorough explorations—he has followed the whole course of this fascinating river from its source in the primeval Okefinokee Swamp of Georgia down through Florida to the Gulf of Mexico some 250 miles away. As he roamed along the Suwannee he made the intimate acquaintance of its teeming wildlife, some of it beautiful, some of it weird. As he wandered, he watched and listened, and with his motion picture camera recorded in natural color the scenic beauty that was all about him. His pictures include many unusual shots of the creatures of the river or that live along its banks. Alligators, snakes, turtles, frogs, insects, and flowers, all of these are represented. Everyone who enjoys the out-of-doors will find a special appeal in this program by one of America's outstanding naturalists.

The public is cordially invited.

Published Monthly by

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

GOLDEN GATE PARK • SAN FRANCISCO



WILLIAM B. PITTS
HONORARY CURATOR OF GEM MINERALS

HAPPY TRAVELER

MR. WILLIAM B. PITTS, Honorary Curator of Gem Minerals in the California Academy of Sciences, returned at the end of February from Del Ray Beach, Florida. While on this trip, he celebrated his seventy-ninth birthday. Mr. Pitts is one Californian who can spend the winter in Florida and get away with it. He has a valid reason. He goes to visit his older sister.

On his return from (you know where) he came by way of Washington, New York and Chicago, where he visited the Smithsonian Institution, the American Museum of Natural History, and the Chicago Museum of Natural History. He arrived in the Middle West in the midst of the late celebrated blizzard. "I've had enough of that for awhile," said Mr. Pitts on his return to San Francisco. "I don't think I'll go back there for several years."

At each of the museums at which he stopped, Mr. Pitts arranged for valuable exchanges whereby new gem minerals will be added to his vast collection which is housed at the Academy and a part of which is exhibited in North American Hall. He has obtained many extraordinary exotics through such exchanges, giving such local specimens as chrysoprase (the world's best comes from Tulare County) and orbicular jasper (from Santa Clara County) in return.

Collecting, cutting and polishing gem minerals has been Mr. Pitts' hobby for forty years. He has prepared an exquisite collection of polished transparencies which are used for exhibit purposes. He also has prepared a large collection of lantern slides made by grinding sections of minerals thin enough that light can be projected through them. He is now planning to make a representative set of kodachrome slides of these transparencies which will be used by the Academy for loan purposes.

It would seem that the assembling and preparation of a collection such as Mr. Pitts has on exhibit in the Academy's museum would constitute a full-time job for a good many years; but he has found time to prepare specimens or representative collections of gem stones for a number of other institutions as well. Indeed, most of the major museums of this country and some abroad have been recipients of his generosity.

Mr. Pitts is fond of travel, and everywhere he goes he finds friends, young and old. His progress across the country is something like a continuous ovation. During these travels he keeps in touch with the home base with frequent post cards, usually signed "The Old Rock-Hound." His favorite message—which might well be regarded as the motto of his life—is, "Happy on the way!"